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May 15, 1999

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305) Food and Drug Administration 5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061 Rockville, MD 20852

Re: Docket #98N-1038 - 'Irradiation in the Production, Processing and Handling of

Food"

Dear Sir or Madam:

The Food and Drug Administration should retain the current labeling law, the current terminology of "treated with radiation" or "treated by irradiation", and the use of the radura symbol on all irradiated foods. The labels should be on the front of the package and LARGE enough to be readily visible by all consumers. All foods should be labeled. Misleading terms such as "electronic or cold pasteurization" should not be allowed. The absence of a statement would also be misleading. Radiation destroys nutrients, creates changes in the quality of food and is HAZARDOUS TO OUR HEALTH. We as consumers certainly have a RIGHT TO KNOW if the irradiation process has been used on our food. (I personally will never eat irradiated food).

Because of the hazards involved in its use, the newness of the technology and the need to assess the public health effects of widespread use of irradiated foods, I believe that the FDA's labeling requirements should not and must not be permitted to expire.

Very truly yours, Deanne Dunge

Dianne E. Grage

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